

Suitable lights range from inexpensive neon bulb types to powerful xenon strobe lights (Figure 6). Neon timing lights are difficult to see and must be used in dimly lit areas. Xenon strobe timing lights can be used outside in bright sunlight. Both types work on the ATC; use according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Portable Tachometer

A portable tachometer (Figure 7) is necessary for tuning. Ignition timing and carburetor adjustments must be performed at the specified idle speed. The best instrument for this purpose is one with a low range of 0-1,000 or 0-2,000 rpm range and a high range of 0-4,000 rpm. Extended range (0-6,000 or 0-8,000 rpm) instruments lack accuracy at lower speeds. The instrument should be capable of detecting changes of 25 rpm on the low range.

Compression Gauge

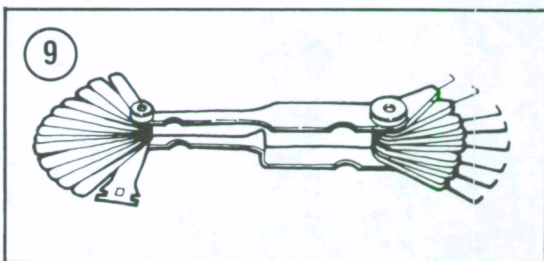
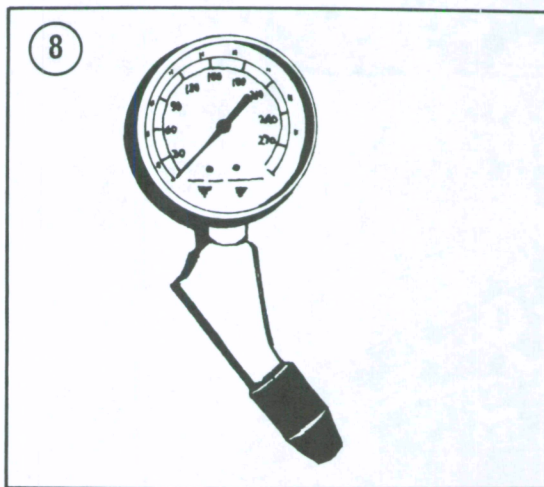
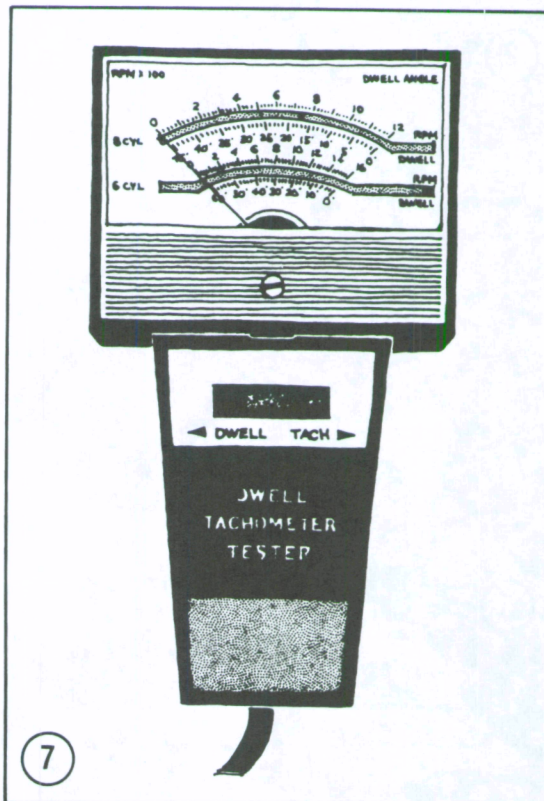
A compression gauge measures the engine compression. The one shown in Figure 8 is the type used for the Honda ATCs covered in this book.

Ignition Gauge

This tool has both flat and round wire measuring gauges (Figure 9) and is used to measure contact breaker point gap or ignition pulse generator air gap and to set the spark plug gap. A good one is available at most auto or motorcycle supply stores. Get one calibrated in millimeters.

"OFF THE ROAD" RULES

Areas set aside for off-road riding by the Federal Government or by state or local agencies are continuing to disappear. The loss of many of these areas is usually due to the few who really don't care



and therefore ruin the sport of off-road fun for those who do. Following these basic rules will enable you and others to always have an area open for this type of recreational use.

1. When riding, always observe the basic practice of good sportsmanship and recognize that other people will judge all off-road vehicle owners by your actions.
2. Don't litter the trails or camping areas. Leave the area cleaner than it was before you came.
3. Don't pollute lakes, streams or the ocean.
4. Be careful not to damage living trees, shrubs or other natural terrain.
5. Respect other people's rights and property.
6. Help anyone in distress.
7. Make yourself and your vehicle available for assistance in any search and rescue parties.
8. Don't harass other people using the same area as you are. Respect the rights of others enjoying the recreation area.
9. Be sure to obey all Federal, state, provincial and other local rules regulating the operation of the ATC.
10. Inform public officials when using public lands.
11. Don't harass wildlife. Stay out of areas posted for the protection and feeding of wildlife.
12. Always run with the spark arrester in place and keep your exhaust noise to a minimum.

SAFETY

General Tips

1. Read your owner's manual and know your machine.
2. Check the throttle and brake controls before starting the engine.
3. Know how to make an emergency stop.
4. Know all state, Federal and local laws concerning the ATC. Respect private property.

NOTE

The Honda ATC is designed and manufactured for off-road use only. It does not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and it is illegal to operate it on public streets, roads or highways.

5. Never add fuel while anyone is smoking in the area or when the engine is running.
6. Never wear loose scarves, belts or boot laces that could catch on moving parts or tree limbs.
7. Always wear eye protection and a helmet.
8. Never allow anyone to operate the ATC without proper instruction. This is for their protection and to keep your machine from damage or destruction.

CAUTION

Do not "pop wheelies" and run for any distance with the ATC. The oil capacity is relatively small and the oil will drain out of the oil pump area, causing a loss of oil pressure and costly engine damage.

9. Use the "buddy system" for long trips, just in case you have a problem or run out of gas.
10. Never attempt to repair your machine with the engine running except when necessary for certain tune-up procedures.
11. Check all of the machine's components and hardware frequently, especially the wheels and the steering.
12. Push the ATC onto a trailer bed—never ride it on. Secure it firmly to the trailer and be sure that the trailer lights operate properly.
13. Always wear comfortable clothing and warm clothing in cool or cold weather. Even mild temperatures can be very uncomfortable and dangerous when combined with a strong wind or high-speed travel. See **Table 2** for wind chill factors. Always dress according to what the wind chill factor is, not the ambient temperature.

Operating Tips

1. Never operate the machine in crowded areas or steer toward persons.
2. Avoid dangerous terrain.
3. Cross highways (where permitted) at a 90 degree angle after looking in both directions. Post traffic guards if crossing in groups.
4. Do not ride the vehicle on or near railroad tracks. The ATC engine and exhaust noise can drown out the sound of an approaching train.
5. On models so equipped, keep the headlight free of dirt and never ride at night without the headlight on.
6. Do not ride the ATC without the seat/fender assembly in place.
7. Always steer with both hands.
8. Be aware of the terrain and avoid operating the ATC at excessive speed.
9. Do not panic if the throttle sticks. Turn the engine stop switch to the OFF position.
10. Do not speed through wooded areas. Hidden obstructions, hanging tree limbs, unseen ditches, wild animals and hikers can cause injury and damage to the ATC.
11. Do not tailgate. Rear end collisions can cause injury and machine damage.
12. Do not mix alcoholic beverages with riding.
13. Keep both feet on the foot pegs. Do not permit your feet to hang out to stabilize the machine when

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